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**MR. COOK'S SPEECH.**

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**LESSONS OF THE  
ELECTIONS.**

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**THE SWING ROUND IN  
N.S.W.**

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**ELECTORAL LAW CRITICISED.**

On making his appearance on the platform, Mr. Cook was cheered for nearly a minute.

The Mayor said they welcomed Mr. Cook as their member, and "the prospective Prime Minister." (Applause.)

Mr. Cook, who on rising was greeted with further cheers, the audience rising to their feet, said: It is with very mingled feelings that I find myself on this platform to-night receiving your kind salutations and your greetings as the member for Paramatta.

Another result of the election in our own State is to fill us all with gratification. To think that our own State has swung back again to its old Liberal traditions and principles! It has been a matter of concern to me for some years past to see, one time after another, socialism getting further and further ahead, until on the last occasion we were left with but a handful of stalwarts to hold up

the flag of Liberalism for New South Wales.

**THE ABSENT VOTE.**

Now we have changed back again, and however untoward the counting of the absent votes may be, it is quite certain that we shall be as strong, so far as New South Wales is concerned, as we were twelve years ago, in meeting the Federal House on the first occasion. (Applause.)

We have got right back again to the strength of the first election, and I think that is a gratifying feature to all concerned. With regard to the other States, things are not as satisfactory as we could wish, and this election has been an occasion for a series of surprises, which, to me, as to everyone else, are more or less unaccountable, for, turn the figures as I may, look at the condition of af-

Nothing is clearer than that many things have happened apparently without cause. That is, I know, bad philosophy, but it seems to be good politics, though one of the elements of philosophy is that there is no effect without an adequate cause. But one cannot find a cause for the extraordinary position. Two Sides, which had sold Liberal minorities, a

The position, as far as we can see, is that there is a certain Liberal majority of one—(enclosed)—in the House of Representatives.

even should the two seats in doubt be lost to us. There is, however, a strong indication that the two seats may be decided in favour of our party. That would mean a majority of five. (Applause.)

**THE SENATE.**

In the other House, Senator Millen's House, (hear, hear) things look very promising and interesting. (Laughter.) It looks as if Mr.

Millen will be the leader of seven stalwarts. At any rate, he will be able to say, "We are seven." (Laughter.) This aspect has been made much of by our opponents, by members of the present Government.

It only shows what can happen under the most democratic suffrage in the world. Fortunately under the Constitution there is a provision made—a circuitous one, it may seem

—by which the will of the people may finally prevail.

**SENATE AND STONEWALLING.**

You are told that various things will happen: that the Senate will stonewall; that legislation will be impossible; and so on.

**AN INTERESTING POSITION.**

All this is very interesting, and very informing. I have no doubt you will think

over it at your leisure, and can over it in your mind, and make your judgments accordingly. I only want to say this now: a very puzzling set of circumstances has arisen, and for every member who represents a constituency anywhere in Australia who has been chosen by the people of the country, whether he be Liberal, Labour, Socialist, or Independent, or whatever he cares to call himself, a situation has arisen which will call for all his patriotism

I don't know that it will do any good merely to treat the matter as one between parties. Both parties alike are pledged to do their best for the country that has returned them to Parliament. (Applause.) Whatever form that patriotism of ours may take, whatever we deem in our judgment to be the best course to take in the interest of the country, that is the course that should be adopted by either party in such a situation as has arisen.

Those of us who profess to be Liberals and who have won our way back to Parliament by the protestation of our Liberal principles, that will be our motive in whatever may happen in the immediate future. With us it will be "our country first; its interests first; last, and all the time." Applause. When I speak of the interests of the people I mean the whole people, and not a section of the people. (Applause.) That is our distinguishing badge, all

ways. We stand for every section of the people, and for even-handed justice and fair play and square dealing all round. That is all I desire to say on that point.

WAITING FOR RESULTS.

I want to touch on another important point. I am not at all convinced in my own mind that the electoral machinery that we have is altogether the best. When one has to wait weeks to get the results in any given election

We will need to get a move on in connection with the counting of the votes and ascertaining the will of the people as a whole. I am satisfied that we have applied all the checks that could be applied to see that the ballot is checked, as it ought to be. There

These have been many criticisms made concerning the campaign, and above all others, it is to me the most unreasonable criticism is that made by our opponents concerning their treatment by the press during the fight. I am here to say that I believe the press as a whole—I am speaking of the Lib-

I am not sure, if the whole thing were investigated closely, whether it would not be found that they had far more space in the daily papers than the Liberals got. That is so far as some of their leading men are concerned. Why Mr. Trevelyan should have made the diatribe which he made the other day I cannot understand. There is no man who

He, of all others, is the very man who launches into this criticism of the press for want of reporting. I know men to-day who say things quite as well worth reporting as Mr. Treffe, who don't get a third of the space in the Liberal papers he does.

"THE PRESS GAG."

I am not here to complain, except to say that we have had the full force of the press

has been responded to by some of the papers in Australia. I was recently in South Australia, and one would never have dreamed that a campaign was in progress. The papers were not reporting. The rule, I understand, was that they gave a candidate half a column for his opening address. They treated me very well.

If you want to see a specimen of reporting, see how the Labour papers report "the making of a Liberal." I can show you that.

thing more absurd than their complaints of their treatment by the press of this country. I think they had better set about looking to their own press and their treatment of Lib-  
erals. It seems to me that advantage of press publicity has been with them through-  
out the campaign. The sooner these press



















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